

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 24, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1223**

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**Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Cook (Chair), Pan  
(Vice Chair), Atkins, Block, Gorell, Nielsen, V. Manuel Pérez,  
Williams, and Yamada)**  
*(Coauthor: Assembly Member Beth Gaines)*

February 18, 2011

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An act to repeal and add Section 14124.11 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1223, as amended, Committee on Veterans Affairs. Medi-Cal: Public Assistance Reporting Information System.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Existing law requires the department to establish a 2-year pilot program to utilize the federal Public Assistance and Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the Medi-Cal program and assist them in obtaining federal veterans' health care benefits. Existing law requires the department to select 3 counties, as specified, to participate in the pilot project and authorizes the department to implement the program statewide at any time and continue the operation of PARIS indefinitely if the department determines that the pilot program is cost effective.

This bill would remove the pilot project nature of these provisions and would require the department to implement this program statewide.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 14124.11 of the Welfare and Institutions  
2 Code is repealed.

3 SEC. 2. Section 14124.11 is added to the Welfare and  
4 Institutions Code, to read:

5 14124.11. (a) The department shall utilize the federal Public  
6 Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) to identify  
7 veterans and their dependents or survivors who are enrolled in the  
8 Medi-Cal program and assist them in obtaining federal veteran  
9 health care benefits.

10 (b) The department shall exchange information with PARIS  
11 and identify veterans and their dependents or survivors who are  
12 receiving Medi-Cal benefits.

13 (c) The department shall refer identified Medi-Cal beneficiaries  
14 who are receiving high-cost services, including long-term care, to  
15 county veteran service officers (CVSOs) to obtain information  
16 regarding, and assistance in obtaining, USDVA benefits.

17 (d) In implementing this section, the department shall do all of  
18 the following:

19 (1) Enter into an agreement with the California Department of  
20 Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to perform CVSO outreach services.  
21 The CDVA agreement shall contain performance standards that  
22 will allow the department to measure the effectiveness of the  
23 program established by this section.

24 (2) Enter into any agreements that are required by the federal  
25 government to utilize the PARIS system.

26 (3) Perform any information technology activities that are  
27 necessary to utilize the PARIS system.

28 (e) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section  
29 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,  
30 the department may implement, interpret, or make specific, this  
31 section by means of written directives without taking further  
32 regulatory action.

1 (f) In order to achieve maximum cost savings, the Legislature  
2 hereby determines that an expedited contract process for contracts  
3 under this section is necessary. Therefore, contracts under this  
4 section shall be exempt from the Public Contract Code and from  
5 Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 11250) of Part 1 of Division  
6 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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